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Hilltop Staff

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WEATHER

93
71
Tomorrow:
94
73

Established
1924

THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 91, NO. 7

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Wednesday, September 3, 2008

Wednesday Notebook**SPORTS**

THE MEN'S SOCCER TEAM BEGINS SEASON WITH A LOSS. THE BISON WERE DEFEATED BY AMERICAN UNIVERSITY ON FRIDAY, 5-0.

LIFE & STYLE

ALABAMA HIKES UP MONTHLY FEES FOR EMPLOYEES IN EFFORTS TO DECREASE THE AMOUNT OF OBESITY IN THE WORKPLACE.

NATION & WORLD

BLACK AIRMEN PROVIDE LESSONS FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN YOUTH THROUGH THE NEGRO AIRMEN INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM.

PAGE 6

PAGE 7&8

PAGE 4

HUSA President Addresses Howard Administration

BY EBONI FARMER
Deputy Campus Editor

Transparency and lack of communication in the Administration building are the problems that Howard University Student Association (HUSA) President Nick Owen addresses in a letter to President Sidney A. Ribeau on behalf of the student body.

Owen sent the letter Monday night requesting that the purge dates and "add/drop" course dates be extended because of poor communication between the Student Accounts and Financial Aid offices.

He urged the President to extend the course "add/drop" date to September 8, in order to allow students more time to get into classes that professors may have not shown up for yet.

Owens also asked that the purge date be postponed and for a two week extension, when done so, to give students more time to get their finances in order.

"There are students who still have holds on

their accounts, there is a decline in overrides being given, and there are more students than courses being offered in many required classes," Owens wrote.

Students, like David McClain, who are yet to be validated are frustrated with the way the university is running and dealing with the student financial aid process. "I think that it is unfair that Howard treats students the way that they do," said McClain, a senior advertising major. "I have friends at other universities who have no idea what it means to be kicked out your classes or housing."

Owen said that he has been getting complaints from HUSA staff members and the general population on issues they are having with having their loans, scholarships and other forms of financial aid dispersed into their accounts.

Despite the quarrels McClain has with the Financial Aid office, he encourages students to turn in their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as early as possible.

Austin Thompson, Director of Policy and Planning for HUSA, believes that the university has

failed to serve the students.

He said that the old ways the university runs by, like using override slips are no longer adequate and the school needs to become technologically sound.

"All of these processes need to be streamlined online. The universities technology needs to be updated," Thompson said. "We shouldn't be walking around with override slips."

He urged students to be proactive and demand that these changes are made to the process of getting into and out of courses easier.

"If we're expecting these processes to change students are going to have to be willing to take some form of direct action," Thompson said. "We have to hold our administration and each other accountable."

Jazmyn Brown, a freshmen undecided major, is considering leaving the university because of issues she has had dating back to June. "I wasn't able to register for classes on time because I was told I had to wait until August to find out if my college

credit courses that I took in high school would transfer," Brown said.

By the time she was able to register, most freshmen already had their classes and upperclassmen registered in the spring, she said.

Brown said she chose Howard because she wanted to get the HBCU experience but this is not what she expected.

"In Iowa where I went to high school, they are trying to keep minorities in state. I turned down money to come to Howard," Brown said.

Owen believes that if the university doesn't provide better customer service, students are not going to want to return.

"At a time when Harvard and Yale are giving free tuition, we have to at least clean up the way we treat people who give the university so much money," Owen said.

He believes Howard will lose a lot of talent if things aren't changed. At the time the time of press e-mails from The Hilltop sent to administration were not responded to.

Bush Greeted Convention Despite Party Concerns

BY ANGELA SMITH
Staff Writer

President Bush addressed the Republican National Convention last night, emphasizing that Sen. John McCain is "ready to lead" the nation.

"We need a president who understands the lessons of September 11, 2001: that to protect America, we must stay on the offense, stop attacks before they happen and not wait to be hit again. The man we need is John McCain," Bush expressed via satellite from the White House to the convention in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.

Focusing on last night's theme of service, Bush also spoke on McCain's courage and vision, calling him "an independent man" whose "life is a story of service above self."

Bush was originally scheduled to speak Monday, the opening night of the convention. But with Hurricane Gustav bearing down on Louisiana — just three years after the devastation and botched response to Hurricane Katrina — party officials cut Monday's session to basic business as Bush spent the day visiting hurricane relief centers in Texas.

Bush commended the governors of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas for their "sure-handed response and seamless coordination with the federal government." He also thanked volunteers who chose to help those affected by the storm.

"We are thankful that the damage in New Orleans and across the Gulf Coast was less than many had feared," Bush said.

Because of the president's low approval ratings — which have reached as low as 30 percent — Republicans weren't quite sure how to include Bush into this year's convention.

Dana Perino, White House



Photo Courtesy of swampopolitics.com

President Bush addressed Republicans last night via satellite at their national convention.

spokeswoman, said in a press briefing that it was a "mutual decision" for Bush to speak to the convention via satellite instead of in person.

HU College Republicans President Cameron Lewis felt it necessary that Bush be included in the convention's proceedings. "The GOP has done an outstanding job on showing party unity, especially in this year's race," Lewis said. "Although McCain may separate from Bush, Bush still needed to be involved in the convention. Bush is passing the baton on to McCain."

Last night's lineup also included speeches by first lady Laura Bush, former Tennessee Sen. Fred Thompson — also McCain's former rival for the Republican presidential nomination — and Sen. Joe Lieberman, an Independent who was the 2000 Democratic nominee for vice president.

Lieberman made an aggressive appeal to Democrats, Republicans and

Independents, pushing them to help elect McCain in his speech titled, "The Original Maverick, John McCain."

"What, after all, is a Democrat like me doing at a Republican convention like this? The answer is simple," Lieberman said. "I'm here to support John McCain because country matters more than Party. I'm here tonight because John McCain is the best choice to bring our country together and lead our country forward. I'm here because John McCain's whole life testifies to a great truth: being a Democrat or a Republican is important. But it is not more important than being an American."

Additionally, Orson Swindle, who was a prisoner of war with McCain in Vietnam, saluted fellow veterans and other POWs attending the convention.

McCain's running mate, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, is scheduled to speak tonight.



Jessica Lewis - Staff Writer

Panelists at Tuesday's "Black Love and Relationship" forum engaged students with the topics.

'Black Love' Comes to Blackburn Center

BY JESSICA LEWIS
Staff Writer

Interracial dating, homosexuality, the hostile nature of black females and the care and maintenance of a relationship were all hot-button issues at the "Black Love and Relationship Forum" held Tuesday.

The Kwame Ture Society, a student organization for African Studies, and the Howard University Student Association hosted the event. It was held in order to cover issues relevant to students concerning African Studies.

According to Josh Nyers, a senior finance major, "We just wanted to highlight African studies in a light nobody sees it. It encompasses all areas of life."

Senior human development major Jennifer Bien-Aime attended the event to understand the dynamics of establishing a long relationship. Previously, Bien-Aime's has been in four different relationships, two males and two females, and is often left with the same questions.

"What to do, what questions do I ask when things fall apart and aren't going well?" she said.

The panel consisted of two married couples, Claudia Gibson-Hunter and Keith Hunter, Ph.D. and Zebra and Jules Harrell, Ph.D.s. The event started with

each couple explaining how they came together.

Gibson-Hunter said that she and Hunter were attending the same forum, much like this one, when they met.

"I was always very interested in people that love their people," Gibson said. "We used to listen to the radio station WTS and they used to be on top of the issues. They could call a rally and people showed. Keith was a listener."

Zebra Harrell had a very different first encounter experience, which consisted of her being frightened by her now husband. She was walking with her niece at the time of their first encounter.

"I told my niece, 'Walk a little faster, skip, just run!'" she said.

She later got to know Jules Harrell, who said, "I can't even remember being single."

To maintain a healthy relationship, Hunter-Gibson advised students to "keep the drama to a minimum."

Her comment sparked an interesting debate among the audience members about the standoffish attitude exuded by many black females, when approached by a gentleman caller.

Hunter-Gibson said, "Sometimes, us females who are working on ourselves, wear a banner that says, 'We are working on ourselves.' It's not necessary."

Band Experiences More Break-ins, Thefts During Practice

BY SHIVONNE FOSTER
Campus Editor

At the end of last night's practice, many band members found the Band room—located in the basement of the Fine Arts building—opened, with their belongings strung throughout the building.

Euphonium section member Jasmine Scott said the sec-

tion's leader Phillip San Gabriel was the first to discover his belongings were missing.

"We found all our stuff scattered around and we had to pick up our stuff from different places," said Scott, a freshman physical therapy major. None of Scott's belongings were stolen.

According to Scott, the band practices everyday from 5:45 to 8 p.m. and band members entered the room around 8:20

p.m.

Candace Johnson, a member of the euphonium section, had her cell phone stolen. She found the rest of her belongings in "the back hallway of the basement in the Fine Arts building by lockers."

Like Johnson, San Gabriel is missing his cell phone and also, credit cards and a set of keys.

"We understand money, but credit cards and keys?" John-

son said. "What are you doing to do with that if you don't have the pin number or car?"

According to Johnson, monetary amounts as small as \$3 were taken from band members, leading some to believe the burglar was young.

"We can't imagine anyone wanting that small amount of money," she said.

According to Johnson, the door is believed to have been left

open.

"To my knowledge, only the drum majors, directors, and section leaders have keys to the band room," she said.

Last fall, band members fell victim to a couple Band room break-ins, in which empty backpacks were found in Banneker Park and cell phones, IDs, wallets, bank cards were missing.

According to Johnson, no security was present in the

Fine Arts building during the band's practice. Once the police were alerted, two officers came and took the band members' contact information.

"Police didn't say anything about increasing security," Johnson said. "Some cameras around campus have been spray painted and we don't know if they're going to replace them or not."



Photo Courtesy of Carla Gordon

Gordon's New Orleans East home faced damages from Hurricane Katrina in 2005 which were not completely repaired until Thanksgiving Day 2006, when the family moved back home.

Hurricane Hits Home for Bison

BY SHIVONNE FOSTER
Campus Editor

Third year biology student in the College of Medicine Carla Gordon was a senior in high school when Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans. Gordon still vividly remembers the storm, and the great impact it had on her life. When the storm hit, her family relocated to Houston where she enrolled in another high school.

After Katrina hit, Gordon's family was not able to return to their rebuilt New Orleans East home until Thanksgiving Day in 2006.

History seems to repeat itself, with Hurricane Gustav making landfall west of New Orleans almost three years to the day after the city was devastated. Once again her family left their hometown — this time for Florida — to get out of Gustav's path.

The Hilltop: Could you please tell me where you were when Katrina devastated New Orleans?

Gordon: During the time of the storm, I lived in New Orleans East. We evacuated the day before the Hurricane to Houston. I was living in a hotel in Houston while Katrina was devastating New Orleans.

The Hilltop: Could you describe your emotions at the time of Katrina?

Gordon: It was a scary time for me and my family because there was uncertainty about everything. I wasn't sure if life would be the same again. I didn't know when and if I would be going home to New Orleans. I didn't know if I would see my friends from school again. And it was hard contacting family members who were still in the city.

The Hilltop: How would you describe the nation's reaction to Katrina? How would you describe federal relief?

Gordon: Everyone was extremely supportive. I had to attend school in Texas for my senior year of high school. All of the staff and teachers offered me anything I needed, including clothes and food. My classmates helped me catch up with any schoolwork (since a missed 2 weeks of school). I even received extra help in terms of applying for college.

I heard a lot of stories about people going down to New Orleans as soon as the city reopened in order to help start the rebuilding process — including Howard's Alternative Spring Break. I also remember seeing the telethon they did following the hurricane. All of these things were very touching to me.

In terms of federal relief, I feel they weren't as ready as they could be in terms of assisting those who were unfortunate to not have flood insurance. I have family members who are still fighting to receive money from the Road Home assistance program.

The Hilltop: What do you think is the general feeling of residents of New Orleans?

Gordon: Everyone is extra cautious this time around. Hurricane Katrina wasn't too long ago and it's still fresh on our minds. Residents aren't taking any chances and are preparing for the worse.

The Hilltop: What brought you to Howard?

Gordon: I've always had an interest in going to an HBCU. When I returned home a few months after the hurricane, I remember seeing some images in a display that profiled Howard's trip to New Orleans for Alternative Spring Break. That furthered ignited my interest for attending Howard.

The Hilltop: Have you even gone back to volunteer with the Katrina relief?

Gordon: Yes, for my freshman and sophomore year, I've served as a committee member and participant for the Chapel's Alternative Spring Break Trip.

The Hilltop: Do you think federal aid relief agencies like FEMA or volunteers are doing all they can this time around?

Yes, I feel they have really learned from Katrina three years ago and are doing everything they can to avoid the deaths and harm caused by Katrina.

The Hilltop: Is there anything that makes this storm different than Katrina?

Gordon: For Katrina, we did not at all expect to be displaced from our home. The fact that I had to enroll at a new school in Texas was a shock to me. With Gustav, we know what we can expect. Also, the magnitude of Katrina was greater. Our levee systems have been improved and the city has learned our lessons. The main concern is that Gustav has come too early before we are fully prepared.

Summer Program Promises Additional Facility Updates

BY JESSICA LEWIS
Staff Writer

Students may have noticed the new Howard University signs around campus last semester. Students may have even noticed the new look of the bookstore. But some students may have noticed nothing at all.

Either way, the Summer Readiness Program 2008 boasts changes that will welcome students as they return to the Mecca.

For two years, the Physical Facility Management (PFM) team has worked behind the scenes to make small improvements to Howard's campus that will increase the safety of students.

Recently, PFM was allowed a budget of \$70 million. To date, they have spent \$7.7 million.

"We're now to the point where the dollars are being spent on things that we can see and touch," said Paul Musgrave, Associate Vice President for Administrative Services.

From campus-wide renovations to specific building renovations, students have a lot to look forward to this year.

Blackburn Undergoes Cafeteria Advancements

Students may find that the Café has a brand new look. But, beyond the look, it has been equipped with new cooking utensils.

"They upgraded the kitchen and the dining area. If you looked back [into the kitchen], there was a lot of old equipment," said Nicholas Owen, Howard University Student Association (HUSA) President.

"Those big, old pots that they used to use way back in the day are what they had," Owen added. "It hadn't been updated in about 30 years or so."

The dining area features new lighting, floors, tables, chairs, serving areas and even dishes.

New Green for Greene Stadium

This football stadium has been equipped with the installation of a new turf, as well as new fencing and lighting.

"It's going to be one of the nicest football fields in the country," Musgrave said. "The turf we bought and used is now being put in pro-football stadiums, college football stadiums and our stadium. So we'll be one of the best."

um. So we'll be one of the best."

Functional Fountains

The fountain in the Valley is now fully operational and has been all summer.

However, the fountain resting in front of Blackburn will remain a mere fixture until the complete foundation can be replaced.

Musgrave did acknowledge the lack of improvement, however. "I had promised the student government that I would get to it, and I did not," he said.

He continued, "The reason was that we discovered it was a bigger problem than we thought. It is like a big pool, and when that pool leaks it goes down into the Blackburn Center rec area."

The fountain is scheduled to be fixed by next year around August.

Updated Lighting Systems

Last semester, many may have remarked about the addition of lighting to the Upper Quadrangle.

This semester, students may be able to observe the new lighting added to the Valley.

These lighting fixtures will provide students with safer passages as they commute back and

forth to buildings at night.

Safety is one of the key elements of PFM's vision, according to Musgrave.

Plans for Blackburn Game Room

"We are in the process of working out renovating the bowling alley," Owen said. "We want a facility that mimics something more up-to-date, because it has not been upgraded in decades."

Outside of the bowling alley, the game room has received a new paint job, new doors and new furniture has been ordered, which is reported to be scheduled to arrive in a matter of weeks.

Burr Gymnasium Improvements

Burr has received a facelift, focusing on the renovation of the pool and locker rooms.

Biology Greenhouse Scheduled for Completion

Students may notice that the roof of the biology building is furnished with an incomplete greenhouse.

According to Musgrave, the greenhouse will be completed by the end of the first semester, allowing for its full usage.

Repaving of Broken and Cracked Sidewalks

Sidewalks have been repaved to decrease the number of trips and stumbles made by students year after year.

Changes in the sidewalks were made in front of the Undergraduate Library, School of Pharmacy, various areas of the Valley and Yard and behind the Fine Arts building.

According to PFM, sidewalk repairs in front of Cramton Auditorium are coming soon.

However, some of the damaged sidewalks, including those on 6th Street, are property of the District of Columbia and will not be renovated.

Addition of new HVAC systems

Buildings ranging from Ernest Just Hall to the Howard H. Mackey buildings received new cooling and heating systems over the summer in order to enhance the learning experience for students using these facilities.

Refurbished Elevators

All elevators on campus, according to PFM, should be fully functional and renovated, as every elevator reportedly received an upgrade.



Oscar Merida IV - Photo Editor

The Summer Readiness Program was established in order to inform students about the campus upgrades and renovations that take place throughout the summer. So far, several buildings on campus have been renovated.

Howard Professor's Research Leads to Talking Fish Discovery

BY EBONI FARMER
Deputy Campus Editor

"Hey baby" and "Dude get out of here" are the two messages male fish communicate with their hums and grunts, according to Dr. Edwin Gilland, Professor of Anatomy.

Male midshipman fish use the hums in order to attract females to lay eggs in the nests they build so that they can fertilize them.

The grunts are used to keep other male fish away from their nests.

How male fish make the sounds that reel in female fish is part of the research conducted by Gilland and his colleagues, Robert Baker of New York University and Andrew Bass of Cornell University.

The research has been conducted at the Marine Biology

Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass. over the past five years.

"Not only are the female fish attracted to the humming of the males — so are other small male fish," he said.

The "cheater fish" are the small males who imitate the humming of the larger fish and when the female lays her eggs, he fertilizes them.

This is when the male fish use the grunts and say, "Hey dude get out of here."

As they grow, their humming becomes deeper. This attracts more female fish to their nests, Gilland said.

The fact that the fish hum and grunt to communicate is nothing new to science. However, exactly how the humming and grunting is related to other vertebrate is something that Gilland and his research team are interested in.

The researchers conducted their analysis on the larvae of midshipman fish and toad fish based on the hypothesis that fish — which make up the majority of the vertebrate on the planet — have similar ways of "talking" to other vertebrate.

Although fish cannot carry out tunes like humans, it was found that they vocalized millions of years before the first animal even reached land.

Humans use the larynx and tongue to speak, while fish use their swim bladders to produce sound, Gilland said.

According to the Marine Biology Laboratory, the researchers "traced the development of the connection from the animal's vocal muscles to a cluster of neurons located in a compartment between the back of its brain and the front of its spinal cord."

Humans and other verte-

brate also generate sound from similar areas of the brain as fish, which indicates that the evolution of sound in other vertebrate can be traced to fish, Gilland said.

The tools used to conduct the research on the larvae of the toad fish and midshipman fish were florescent lights and a laser scanning confocal microscope.

The confocal microscope is used to create three-dimensional images of the neurons within the larvae.

The researchers were able to watch the larvae's developing hindbrain, which helped them to determine that the sound the fish makes generates from the front of the brain and spinal cord.

Gilland noted that the research has just begun and that the findings will lead to further questions and analysis.

Come grab a Campus Story at the Budget meeting on Sunday at 6 p.m.



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The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) made attempts to enforce a self-deportation program which asked that illegal immigrants ultimately turn themselves into the authorities. According to the ICE Web site, there are about 572,000 ICE fugitives in the U.S.

Self-Deportation Program Efforts Prove to be Ineffective With Aliens

BY JADA F. SMITH
Nation & World Editor

It is rare that illegal aliens who go to great lengths to arrive in the United States voluntarily turn themselves in to be deported.

But that was what officials were hoping for when the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) began advertising in Spanish newspapers and radio stations, asking illegal immigrants to turn themselves in.

The Self-Deportation Program started in early August in five cities: San Diego and Santa Ana, Calif., Charlotte, N.C., Chicago and Phoenix, Ariz.

According to the ICE Web site, the aim of the program was to "allow fugitive aliens who have no criminal history and pose no threat to the community an opportunity to remain out of custody while they coordinate their removal with ICE." The program lasted for nearly a month, August 1-22.

"This program addresses concerns raised by aliens, community groups and immigration attorneys who say ICE unnecessarily disrupts families while enforcing the law," Julie L. Myers, Homeland Security Assistant Secretary for ICE, said in the press release. "By participating in the Scheduled Departure Program, those

who have had their day in court and have been ordered to leave the country have an opportunity to comply with the law and gain control of how their families are affected by their removal."

Immigration law has remained a hot topic as the population of illegal aliens continues to grow throughout the U.S.

The ICE Web site reports that there are approximately 572,000 ICE fugitives in the U.S. An ICE fugitive is defined as an alien who has failed to depart from the United States based upon a final order of removal, deportation or exclusion from a U.S. immigration judge, according to the site.

According to Presidential candidate Barack Obama's Web site, he encourages a program similar to the one ICE started.

"For the millions living here illegally, but otherwise playing by the rules, we must encourage them to come out of hiding and get right with the law," Obama said on his Web site.

He supports a system that allows undocumented immigrants who are in good standing to pay a fine, learn English, not violate the law and to wait at the back of the line for the opportunity to become citizens.

Republican Presidential Nominee John McCain also plans on securing the borders first and then implementing comprehensive initiatives for a secure nation.

"I don't want to fail again to achieve comprehensive immigration reform," McCain said in a statement from his Web site. "We must prove we have the resources to secure our borders and use them, while respecting the dignity and rights of citizens and legal residents of the United States."

Despite the tried and failed efforts of ICE to get a better handle on rounding up aliens, immigrant advocate groups say they knew from the start that the program would not work.

The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) condemned the Self-Deportation program, saying that it was merely a quick fix to a big problem.

"This kind of claptrap idea is not a smart way to deal with immigration; we need real solutions," said Joshua Hoyt, ICIRR Executive Director, in a press release.

"This is a publicity stunt by ICE to put a happy face to the brutal actions that have broken many families apart," Hoyt continued. "Immigration authorities should focus on criminals and should not terrorize workers and families that do not pose any threat to this country."

The voluntary deportation program ended in the last week of August, but no specific numbers have been released saying how many immigrants turned themselves in to authorities.

Through the Eyes of a Nation & World Editor...



5 News Stories You Should Know About

5. **Republican presidential nominee John McCain picks Alaskan governor Sarah Palin as running mate...**As a woman, I am personally offended that the GOP thinks they can seal my vote and the votes of bitter Hillary Clinton supporters by adding a woman to the ticket. I'm sure there may have been other reasons for the selection, but did they realize she came with so much baggage?! The Governor's office in Alaska is currently under investigation for terminating a man that refused to fire her former brother-in-law, her teenage daughter is pregnant, she boasts about being a hockey mom and PTA president on her Vice Presidential resume...come on now.

4. **Gustav hits the Gulf Coast, Republicans reschedule their convention...**My heart definitely goes out to my fellow Bison and my fellow Americans who were affected by Katrina and are being affected by Gustav. As a native Houstonian, I know how scary a hurricane threat can be. However, does anyone else see how the Republicans are purposely over-compensating for the failed efforts of the current President three years ago? Maybe it's just me, but when McCain said, "I want to thank my fellow Republicans as we take off our Republican hats and put on our American hats," did that mean when the Republican hat is on, they are not concerned with the needs of Americans?

3. **Chicago students are fed up with school funding disparities...**Yesterday, hundreds of Chicago Public School students skipped the first day of school and attempted to enroll themselves in better-funded schools in an act of protest against the blatant disparities in funding for public schools. Who said our generation doesn't value an education?! Sen. James Meeks (D-Ill.) said, "We do not believe a child's education should be based on where they live...three decades of under funded schools have led to the social ills we face today." I could not agree more!

2. **The Associated Press recently reported the slow disappearance of yet another life form, fireflies.** In Thailand, the firefly population dropped by 70 percent in the past three years. This may not seem important, but this is just another species to add to the list of magically disappearing insects. Earlier this year, "60 Minutes" reported a vast disappearance of the world's population of honeybees, which provide us with the ONLY method of pollinating vegetables and fruits in order for them to grow. I know y'all have noticed the rising cost of food...

1. **Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick refuses to resign...**after being arraigned on charges stemming from a text-messaging sex scandal, the mayor reportedly proposed a plea deal to avoid serving jail time. I'm all for alternatives to prison for non-violent crimes, so I'm not mad at him. But just a warning to you all, watch the scandalous texts you send; you never know who may end up seeing them!

-Jada F. Smith, Nation & World Editor

Black Airmen Help Underprivileged Youth Soar, Achieve Piloting Dreams

BY EVAN HOLLINS
Contributing Writer

It has been 45 years since Marlon Green became the first African American to be hired by a major United States Passenger Airline. Yet the amount of employed African-American pilots is still small. As the struggle to increase the number of black pilots remains present, there are a number of organizations dedicated to providing the resources needed to help African Americans gain access to the world of aviation.

Since the beginning of the century, African Americans have made achievements in aviation, but only a small number of those achievements are widely known and black pilots still remain fairly unnoticed.

Sam Jones, President of Negro Airmen International (NAI), believes there is still much more to be accomplished. "Aviation is a new frontier," Jones said.

"The average price to get your pilot's license is between 4,500 to 5,000 dollars," said Fred Lewis, Chairman of the Board for the Black Pilots of America Organization (BPAO). According to Lewis, the major barrier for blacks pursuing a career in aviation is the fact that it is an expensive endeavor. Therefore, exposure is difficult to gain.

Part of the reason behind the rising costs of attaining a pilot's license is due to the rising gasoline prices. Many schools and instructors must increase their costs in order to keep their airplanes' tanks filled.

Sam Jones stresses that generating more African-American pilots "must begin with exposure and helping."

The duty of these organizations, such as NAI, is to provide free access to young African Americans interested in aviation. "I take kids on flights for free to give exposure," Lewis said.

According to Dr. Lisa Bratton of the Tuskegee Airmen,

the organization offers scholarships to aspiring pilots.

BPAO puts forth the effort to promote aviation in schools and even host a two-week summer program at Texas Southern University. "We don't just give introductions, we train; we even get them from juvenile detention centers to give them something better to do," Jones said.

He also claims that education and hands-on training is an important part of what NAI does. "Being trained by an African American is good because we know what the students may be going through," Jones continued. He also expressed that they are in it for the long run and are not just interested in getting the students their licenses.

NAI also introduces its students to other forms of piloting and aviation. "One student designs runways," he said.

Jones also noted that NAI is currently encouraging students to even look at doing international work such as flying freight. These organizations have also made the effort to partner with other institutions.

He added that Hampton University has agreed to partner with NAI and that he hopes to reach out to other HBCUs. According to Jones, creating partnerships with colleges is a smart choice since some of the aviation programs offered by colleges are not very successful because of training mechanisms and the costs of such programs.

Jones also went on to say that NAI offers a flat rate for training as opposed to the multiple charges that go along with getting pilot training elsewhere.

NAI, Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated, Black Pilots of America and other similar organizations have also influenced talks of beginning programs for high schools and junior high schools as well.

As Sam Jones expressed the achievements and goals of the NAI, he said, "This is an indication of how we can do as a people."

Think you're a political guru? Send your opinions to hilltopnw@gmail.com

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ACTIVITIES & HUSA

Student Organizational Fair
Monday, September 8, 2008
10am - 2pm

Recognized organizations can purchase tables for
\$25 starting August 25th in Cramton Auditorium Box Office.
Space is limited so purchase your tables soon!

Sales end Friday, September 5th.
All Student Organizations please make sure that you
are registered with the Office of Student Activities;
this is the only way you can participate.

These are the items that are needed:
Typed Census Form signed by your advisor
Membership Roster

Deadline to register your organization for the
2008/09 school year is
September 3, 2008 by 7:00 p.m. NO EXCEPTIONS

Safe Haven Law Reaches Nebraska, Allows Abandonment

BY ANGELA P. SMITH
Staff Writer

Nebraska recently enacted a Safe Haven law, allowing parents to surrender infants anonymously at hospitals without legal consequence.

Though Nebraska is the last state in the nation to permit such a law, it is also the first state to permit parents to abandon children up to age 19. Other states have set a much lower age limit for children to be abandoned — only babies under a year old apply.

Passed in February by the state's nonpartisan legislature, the law says that no person can be prosecuted for leaving any child in the custody of any on-duty hospital employee.

State Sen. Pete Pirsch (R-Neb.) wrote the bill's amendment that enables parents to leave older children.

"In 2004, a two-day-old infant was abandoned in a canal near the Elkhorn River in Norfolk, Nebraska and in 2007 a woman found a baby boy abandoned in a tote bag between a trash can and a discarded TV," Pirsch said in an interview with NPR.

"They [parents] can come to a point where they have frustration and anger that may injure the child," Pirsch continued. "This is a vastly superior system set up to take the child from a position of danger and put them in a safe environment."

But many critics call the new law troublesome, pointing out that it may deter parents from going through formal adoption processes.

There's also the worry that frustrated parents could drop off unruly teens or even severely disabled

children with no questions asked.

And because the law does not specify who can leave the child, unlike most other states, it allows anyone, not just parents, to legally give up custody.

Junior legal communication major Isaiah Adams does not agree with the Safe Haven law and is bothered by how easy the law makes it for parents to neglect children.

"It's just a bad policy," Adams said. "[The law] allows people to leave their children with no 13-year-old is getting on my nerves, so I'm just going to drop them off at the hospital." The law can basically be used as a cop-out for irresponsible parents.

Despite such concerns, the bill has yet to cause any problems, according to Pirsch. "The whole overriding idea behind the Safe Haven law is to make sure that babies are safe," Pirsch said. "When the alternative could very well be death, it [the Safe Haven law] is certainly the direction we should be headed."

Pirsch added that Nebraska will continue to monitor the success of the new law and will make revisions if necessary.

The Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimated that 1,530 children died due to child abuse or neglect in 2006. The overall rate of child fatalities was 2.04 deaths per 100,000 children, and more than 40 percent of the child fatalities were attributed to neglect.

Texas was the first state to pass a Safe Haven law in 1999. Since then, Safe Haven advocates have successfully spread the law to the rest of the country.

Married Couples Talk Love, Sex, Relationships at Panel Discussion

Continued from front, BLACK LOVE

She added, "Grace allows people to talk to you."

On a different issue regarding the acceptance of promiscuity among college students as a standard of society, Hunter-Gibson said, "One of the things we get caught up in is 'I need a man.' Needing is like 'If you don't have it, you don't exist.' I have a problem with that type of socialization."

Similarly, Zébra Harrell said, "You can't have a long relationship if you never had a long friendship, a plutonic friendship without sex. Date. I said date, and see how long you can sustain without sex."

She added, "If you're going to do this thing, make sure you love her. Make sure you love her to death, because you very well may."

Hunter spoke about the myth that all black men date outside their race saying that the percentage was actually very small. One female, who expressed interest in interracial dating, was confronted by a "Boo" from a young man in the audience.

Zébra Harrell said, "People tend to have a list of traits they want in a mate, like tall. Sometimes you can have a good relationship with a short man."

Her comment was greeted by laughs from the audience.

FOOTBALL TICKET DISTRIBUTION

Get Your Tickets to the

Howard University vs. Georgetown University

(What's a Hoya?)

game on Saturday, September 6, 2008

Tickets will be distributed to **validated** students on a first come first serve basis:

DATE: Wednesday, September 3rd and Thursday, September 4th

TIME: 10:00 am until 3:00 pm

PLACE: Lower Level of Cramton Auditorium

Please bring your HU student identification card. If you are not validated in the Banner system by Friday, August 29th you **MUST** bring a proof of validation from Bison Web.

NASCAR Initiative Sparks Diversity, Internships

BY JAMELA JOSEPH
Contributing Writer

When Howard University students Erica Day and Jamie Bowman were considering internships, they were selected for one they would never imagine.

With the growing diversity interests in NASCAR (National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing), both successfully completed NASCAR's Diversity Internship Program and found it to be a rewarding experience.

"When I first came upon the Diversity Internship Program on the internet, I was like, 'NASCAR? Yeah, right.' But there is so much you can do at NASCAR. It's like getting the ultimate experience," said Day, Howard graduate student.

In the summer of 2005, Day, a graduate student, became a group sales and marketing intern at NASCAR Speed Park in Charlotte, N.C. Her duties were to assist in getting more groups to come to the park.

Day had never watched a NASCAR race prior to her internship, but when she was introduced to the sport,

she was pleasantly surprised at the experience. "It was an experience out of this world," Day said.

Her invaluable experience led her to intern with NASCAR for a second time in 2007 as a client services intern for Just Marketing International in Indianapolis. She worked directly with Crown Royal and Direct TV, implementing and developing marketing plans.

The three-month long internship allowed her to come into contact with the various aspects of the sport.

"On TV you see the cars lined up on the track going in circles, but there are so many people involved in order to make the race happen," Day noted. "The internship program gives you the dynamics of the sport."

Junior sports management major Jamie Bowman interned in the Consumer Marketing Department in Daytona Beach this past summer. She was able to get in touch with her creative side, finding innovative ways to attract new fans. Bowman also seized this opportunity as a time to learn and to network.

"Being able to hear about people's different journeys to NASCAR was valu-

able. It helped me learn about the different outlets that I can turn to once I graduate," said Bowman.

Bowman also credits her experience at NASCAR for helping her become well-rounded. She has gained more knowledge about the sports industry.

Both Day and Bowman experienced a family-like environment with NASCAR, so they were surprised to hear about the lawsuit filed on June 11 by Mauricia Grant, the former black technical inspector and official for NASCAR. Grant alleges 23 incidents of sexual harassment as well as 34 incidents of racial and gender discrimination, according to NASCAR.com.

Day says NASCAR is serious about their diversity initiatives and strongly believes that if discrimination were to take place, action would be taken immediately. Bowman said she has never experienced any form of discrimination or sexual harassment and that everyone was treated equally.

"The internship program has been a great complement to other initiatives. With diversity being a main focus at NASCAR, [the internship] has enhanced



Photo Courtesy of Erica Day
Graduate student Erica Day (right) interned at NASCAR in Daytona Beach, Fla. over the summer. Day was a participant in NASCAR's Diversity Internship Program.

our work force," said Brandon Thompson, Senior Account Executive of Diversity Affairs.

Thompson said Day and Bowman both did an excellent job throughout their internships, impressing many people. He encourages more students to apply for the internship in the future.

Day and Bowman both consider NASCAR as an option for full-time jobs

and they encourage students to think outside of the box because the opportunities with NASCAR are endless.

In addition to their initiative, NASCAR is currently working on a college program called NASCAR Kinetics. The program will be coming to Howard in the spring. For more information on this unique opportunity to work with NASCAR visit DiversityInternships.com.

Men's Soccer Team Kicks Off on Wrong Foot, Loses Opener

Courtesy of Howard Sports
Information Office

The Howard men's soccer team dropped its season opener to American University, 5-0, Friday evening on the opening day of the D.C. Cup.

The first period ended with the Eagles taking a 4-0 lead. American's Daniel Shannon knocked a shot past senior Adisa Bekoe (Belmont, Trinidad/Queen's Royal College) three minutes in, giving AU a 1-0 lead.

Anthony Moy added another goal shortly thereafter and Nick Kapus made it 3-0 after scoring unassisted at 30:52.

American's offense kept the pressure on Bekoe all night, taking 29 shots, while the Eagle defensive pressure held the Bison to two shots in the decision.

Sophomore Rodino Wright (St.

Elizabeth, Jamaica/Munro College H.S.) and senior Guilherme Fonseca (Sao Paulo, Brazil/Shepherd Univ.) had one shot each.

George Washington defeated Howard 8-0 on Sunday afternoon on the final day of the D.C. Cup.

Rotimi Iziduh (Lagos, Nigeria/Greater Tomorrow Secondary) led the Bison with three shot attempts, including one on goal. Kareem Williams (Ontario, Canada/Father Michael McGivney), Harvey Livingston (Sacramento, Calif./Bella Vista H.S.) and Gregory Westbrook (Lebanon, Tenn./Winston Central H.S.) each contributed one shot on goal.

Andy Stadler and Yoni Berhanu each had a pair of goals for GW (1-0-1) while four other Colonials finished with one goal each.

Howard returns to action September 5-7 at the Hensor/Zaher Memorial Diadora Classic in Portland,



Photo Courtesy of Lawrence Johnson-All Pro Photo
Senior captain Guilherme Fonseca attempts to dodge an American defender and score a goal.

Ore. The tournament, hosted by Oregon State, will pit the Bison against the Beavers on September 7 at 10:30 p.m. (EST). HU will battle Seattle University on the second day of the tourney at 1 p.m. (EST).

Volleyball Team Still Hopeful After Slow Start

BY TERRICKA JOHNSON
Contributing Writer

Spike! The Howard University Women's volleyball team is definitely turning up the heat this year as the 2008 volleyball season begins.

The team has been training since the summer and they are gearing up for another rigorous season. They will face stiff competition such as FAMU, UNC Charlotte and HU's own D.C. neighbor, Georgetown University.

This year, the squad is being led once again by Head Coach Orlando Larracuente, who has over 20 years of volleyball coaching experience.

Larracuente was the head volleyball coach at the University of the District of Columbia prior to his present three-year stint at the Capstone.

"We would like to win the division [championship]. Even though we are young, I think we have the talent to challenge for the division," Larracuente said. "I think that we are ahead of others with the quality of athletes we have been able to attract."

The main assets that Larracuente looks for in his players are "athleticism, academics and hard work."

Larracuente also appreciates being able to coach a group of young, black women. He was also excited about the amount of minorities on the United States Olympic Indoor Volleyball Team.

"I like the fact that I am coaching a team of all African-American players," Larracuente said.

Larracuente said that there is a lack of African-American players at the club level. "It's pretty special to me to be here doing this with African-American players."

Former Morgan State player and present Assistant Coach Melanie Thompson had glowing remarks for this year's team. "The girls are great and they work very hard," she said. "They are very intense."

Thompson also noted that the MEAC has become a stronger conference since her playing career ended.

"The MEAC itself has gotten stronger than it was, even in the past four

years since I've played," she said. "I think they are going to pull out 'Ws' on all of them."

Gazelle d'Artois, who is only a sophomore, is leading the way on the court for the volleyball team this year as captain. She said, "Our most valuable asset is our pure love of the game."

D'Artois was named to the East Carolina All-Tournament Team for her outstanding play against East Carolina and East Tennessee State. She had a tournament tally of 22 kills and 19 digs.

"For the team, our goal is to win MEAC, beat FAMU for the first time in nine years, and then from there, go on to win the NCAA championship. We're not just happy settling for MEAC," d'Artois said.

Coaches Larracuente and Thompson both identified the team to beat as the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES). UMES was also this year's pre-season pick for the North MEAC title. Howard (0-3) makes its home debut on Tuesday versus UMB. Match time is 7 p.m. at Burr Gymnasium.

Sports Briefs

Richard Collier

According to the *Associated Press*, Richard Collier, an offensive tackle for the Jacksonville Jaguars, was shot. The shot left him critically wounded. He is currently in critical condition at Shands Jacksonville Medical Center.

The incident occurred outside an apartment building early Tuesday morning around 2:45 a.m. Collier and teammate Ken Jefferson were waiting for two women they had met days prior, as reported by the *Associated Press*.

In a statement released by the team, Jaguars owner Wayne Weaver said, "We're shocked and deeply saddened by this morning's news about Richard Collier. We have been informed that Richard has had surgery and he's in critical but stable condition. The entire Jaguars family is praying for Richard and his family at this time."

The motive behind the attack is unknown and the sheriff's office is still conducting an investigation. Collier is the third NFL player to be shot in the past 18 months. Washington Redskins star Sean Taylor was fatally shot during an alleged botched burglary attempt at his Miami-area home in November. Broncos cornerback Darrent Williams was also killed when his rented limousine was sprayed with bullets minutes after leaving a New Year's party at a downtown Denver club in 2007.

National Football League

On Thursday, Sept. 4, 2008, the NFL's season will begin. Playing this Thursday night will be divisional rivals, the New York Giants and the Washington Redskins.

The Giants are looking to build on their success from their Super Bowl season a year ago. However, the road to Raymond James Stadium for Super Bowl XLIII will not be easy. Last year's captain Michael Strahan retired from football and the team's second best player, Osi Umenyiora, will be gone for the season due to a knee injury.

The Redskins are looking to start off strong under first-year Head Coach Jim Zorn. Zorn was the Seattle Seahawks former Quarterbacks Coach, so he is thin on experience. However, the Redskins still have high expectations for their upcoming season. With a healthy Clinton Portis running the ball and an improved Jason Campbell running the offense, fans can expect a great game from these two teams.

The game kicks off tomorrow night at 7 p.m. on NBC.

College Football

The first week of college football just came to an end and there was no shortage of surprises. The University of Michigan, the college with the most football wins in NCAA history, lost their opening game for the second straight season. A new era of exciting and fast-paced football was supposed to be introduced to Michigan fans. However, the Utah Utes would have no part of it, prevailing by a final score of 25-23.

USC started its season off on a high note with a dominate 52-7 win over West Virginia. Due to their impressive victory, the Trojans are currently ranked No. 1 in the college football AP poll. Coming in behind them are Georgia at No. 2 and Ohio State at No. 3.

-Compiled by Deontay Morris,
sports editor

TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY

September 3, 1928

Baseball Hall of Famer Ty Cobb got his 4,191th and final career hit.

Courtesy of www.todayinsports.com

Do you have a passion for sports and writing? If so, e-mail thehilltopsports@gmail.com

Alabama Cracks Down On Obesity in Workplace

State Employee Insurance Board approves monthly fee for workers who don't improve health

BY EBONI BLENMAN
Contributing Writer

The Alabama State Employee Insurance Board (SEIB) has joined in on the battle against the bulge. A plan has been approved to force obese state workers who do not take the necessary steps to address their weight issues to pay for their own insurance.

After ranking second as the most obese state in the nation, according to a report published by the non-profit organization Trust for America's Health, Alabama has become proactive in the fight against obesity. The approved plan will make Alabama the first state to impose a fine on overweight state employees.

The plan, which will go into effect in January 2010, requires state employees to undergo testing in order to monitor their cholesterol, blood pressure and weight. If any of the screenings are abnormal, employees will be given a year to improve their health through a combination of wellness programs and doctor services provided by the state at no cost.

The plan mandates that employees who make little or no progress within a year must pay a monthly insurance fee of \$25.

"[The fine] is a little expensive, but the fact that the workers are being charged will be motivation," says Dr. Thelma Baker, Professor of Nutritional Sciences.

Still, Baker questions the effectiveness of the SEIB's plan. "A reward based system would be more effective because the client would be more inclined to strive for the reward," she said.

The SEIB weight-loss initiative is unique in the fact that it is punitive while many other states have adopted incentive-based campaigns against obesity.

Instead of issuing fines, states like Ohio offer a one-time payment of \$100 for individuals who voluntarily receive health assessments and follow through with the advice.

Arkansas and Missouri also offer incentives in the form of discounts on premiums for employees who take steps to combat obesity, stress and other health issues.

Whether or not this plan will be successful remains to be seen, yet there is already heated debate as to its fairness and merit.

"Overweight people have enough problems with self-esteem without being criticized and forced to pay for their weight," said Brittany Holmes, a junior



Tyrone Clemens - Staff Photographer

Alabama is becoming strict with employees in the fight against obesity. A plan was approved to charge overweight employees a monthly fee if they do not improve their health. Employees will be tested for high cholesterol, blood pressure and weight, at no charge.

English major. "This plan is only another attempt to demonize those who struggle with weight issues and who are already targeted on a regular basis by our callous media and superficial society."

However, many others on campus have a different opinion.

John Saulters, a freshman undecided major, states plainly, "The gov-

ernment isn't obligated to support their [obese workers'] choice of lifestyle. The workers' lack self control...is taking advantage of the system."

Fantasia Motley, a freshman music business major added, "Overweight people should appreciate a plan like that because it will obligate them to be more responsible for themselves."

Regardless of what type of system is implemented, Baker insists that education is a vital component in addressing obesity.

"Alabama must begin with education on the consequences of obesity such as diabetes, hypertension and elevated cholesterol."

What is on the Menu?

According to Trust For America's Health, a national organization focused on disease prevention, two-thirds of Americans are either obese or overweight and spending in fast food restaurants has grown over 18 times in the past 30 years.

A recent study by Epocrates, Inc., an organization that provides tools for health care professionals, found that 29 percent of physicians blame the fast food industry for the obesity epidemic plaguing the states. Yet, the majority of the blame, 51 percent, was attributed to individuals' dietary and exercise habits.

Whether or not fast food services are truly to blame, several major food chains have started their own initiatives to help consumers slim down.

Dunkin' Donuts, Starbucks and Taco Bell are a few restaurants that have shaped up their menus to provide healthier dietary options.

Unlike the original menus, the new food items aim to provide nutrition with fewer calories and enriched flavor.

	Dunkin' Donuts		Starbucks		Taco Bell	
Original Items	Original Menu		Frappuccino®		Original Menu	
	Item	Calories/Saturated Fat	Item	Calories/Saturated Fat	Item	Calories/Saturated Fat
	Glazed Donut	230/4.5g	Grande Java Chip Frappuccino® Blended Coffee	340/5g	Crunchy Taco Supreme	150/2.5g
	Small Strawberry Banana Smoothie	350/1g	Grande Café Vanilla Frappuccino® Blended Coffee	310/2g	Burrito Supreme® Steak	430/8g
	Wheat Bagel	330/4g	Grande Caramel Frappuccino® Blended Coffee	270/2.5g	Soft Taco Supreme® Beef	250/6g
	Blueberry Muffin	470/3g			Bean Burrito	360/3.5g
New Items	DDSMART		Vivanno™ Nourishing Blends		Fresco Menu	
	A menu created to offer foods with fewer calories, saturated fats and 25 percent less sugar or sodium.		Drinks made from whole fruit and natural juices fortified with protein and fiber.		A menu composed of classic Taco Bell foods, but all items are under 9 grams of fat.	
	Egg White Flatbread Sandwich	290/4g	Grande Banana Chocolate Blend	270/2.5g	Fresco Crunchy Taco	150/2.5g
	Small Reduced Calorie Berry Smoothie	250/1g	Grande Banana Chocolate Blend with Espresso Shot	250/1g	Fresco Burrito Supreme® Steak	340/3g
	Multigrain Bagel	380/1g	Grande Orange Mango Banana Blend	250/1g	Fresco Soft Taco Beef	180/3g
	Reduced Fat Blueberry Muffin	400/2g			Fresco Bean Burrito	330/2.5g

compiled by Aleesa Mann, Life & Style Editor

Respecting Privacy a Major Issue in Relationships

BY JENERRA ALBERT
Staff Writer

Living in an electronic age, anything is possible. Knowing who your boyfriend or girlfriend is calling, how often and how long can be found out. Text messages, browser history, pictures and videos they have taken can also be retrieved. For some, this is commonplace. But for others this may be approaching the barrier of trust.

"Any person who feels the need to check their partner's personal things — like messages, browser history, etc. — has a self-paranoia which is their own problem and not their partners," says Hara Marano, editor-at-large of *Psychology Today*. "In a relationship like that, trust will automatically erode."

According to Marano, all relationships should be based on a foundation of trust.

"Whether it is a relationship between mother and daughter, sister to sister, the relationship will erode if there is no trust and one person feels the need to snoop," Marano adds.

Relationships are bound with the trust and mutual agreement of the individuals involved, yet one of the most prominent issues that may arise is whether or not there is an appropriate time or

place for snooping.

Many students recognize the need for privacy and space in relationships, despite the intimate bond between him or herself and their significant other.

Kiersten Gilliam, a sophomore broadcast journalism major, feels that in a relationship, partners have a right to each others' space, but should also respect each others privacy.

"Although I feel I would have the right to know his business, there are some things that are probably better if he kept to himself anyway," Gilliam said. "For example, he may have a family issue that he just does not want to discuss [which in that case] I would give him that space."

With differences of opinion and life styles, people may find themselves in a relationship with someone who may think it is normal to invade their partner's right to privacy. While the idea of privacy may be arbitrary, some students feel that a person should always be guaranteed the right to privacy, regardless of how intimate their relationship may become.

For Maurice Dukes, a freshman civil engineering major, "It all comes down to trust."

Dukes explained that prying through a person's belongings looking for clues to explain unanswered questions is



File Photo

For many young adults in relationships, "snooping around" is very popular. However, relationships, which are defined by the individuals therein, will begin to disintegrate without trust.

not necessary if trust is present in a relationship.

"If trust doesn't exist then the relationship isn't too healthy anyway," he adds.

For other students, honesty is the

best policy.

"I don't have a problem being open with [a girlfriend], but snooping can become out of hand when she feels the need to go behind my back to verify what I have already told her," said Alex

McChester, a sophomore marketing major. "If she trusts me, then that shouldn't be necessary."

Prying into someone else's privacy can result in problems where there originally were none. The desire for trust is a natural part of a relationship, and according to Marano, snooping can create a liar out of an honest person.

"People who feel as though their privacy has totally been invaded become absolutely outraged and they react this way when someone is snooping through their things when they haven't presented reason not to be trusted," Marano said.

In an attempt to address the issue of privacy, many couples define the parameters of such. Despite the rules established within a relationship, Marano admits there are times when snooping can be justified.

"If a person has 'real reason' then by all means it is OK to gather information," Marano said. "Under normal circumstances, nobody should go through your things in order to find out, because that's when you learn trust — but only if there is a legitimate reason."

Marano continued, "However, regularly feeling the need to read e-mails, check call history and read text messages could call for you to reconsider the relationship."

Magazine Industry Reports Drop in Sales

Publishers devise innovative strategies to attract readers and overcome poor sales.

BY JENERRA ALBERT
Staff Writer

When the pages of *Seventeen* fail to strike the interests of the average teenage girl and the young black female has ceased to find herself immersed in the gossip, tips and news included in *Essence*.

When music enthusiasts no longer thumb the pages of *Vibe* or *The Source* as faithfully as they used to, it becomes clear that the magazine industry is losing its strong hold on American readers.

Within the first half of this year, magazine sales have plummeted outstandingly. With the current skyrocket of gas and food prices, the result becomes a fall in magazines of 6.3 percent at newsstands as reported by the Audit Bureau of Circulations, a non-profit organization of advertisers and publishers.

Several students have expressed disinterest with the current state of the magazine industry and cite that as a reason for its lagging sales.

"I feel like the [magazine] industry is bad, especially when it comes to celebrities. They don't even talk about real issues anymore," said Keisha Herbert, senior political science major.

"There are bigger things going on besides Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie. What about what's going on in Darfur?"

Herbert continued, "As a college student, I can't afford to waste money on a magazine... Once I've read a magazine I don't need it anymore. There-

fore, I can look at it online for free and be done with it. Britney Spears and Paris Hilton are getting redundant and annoying and I refuse to waste my money on that."

The sagging economy is another major component to poor magazine sales. With consumers spending less money on things viewed as necessities, such as gas, electricity and groceries many cannot afford the luxury of magazines.

According to Amber Venerable, Howard alumna and assistant to the creative writer and designer of *Shape* magazine, "Magazines are an impulse buy, with the economy doing so badly people (especially students) are being more cautious with their money and are not as impulsive to buy based on who is on the cover."

Venerable continued to explain that magazines acquire revenue primarily through advertisements and newsstand purchases. When a magazine fails to produce, advertisers reduce the ads they buy.

Technology has also served up major competition for magazine sales. Online blogs and news sources are instant, up-to-date and most importantly, free sources of information. Students like to use online sources because they can be of one time use.

"I have replaced the magazine with the internet by reading a lot of health, headlines and celebrity gossip. I get more information online. There's a wider range of sources, and it can be updated every day versus a magazine which in most cases is monthly. Not only that but after I've read a magazine I don't need it anymore," said Rianna Felder,

sophomore broadcast journalism major.

Advertisers are pulling a lot of their ads from print magazines and choosing to purchase ads in online blogs and news sites because they are able to reach more audiences simultaneously and profitably through online advertising. In response, magazines are establishing an online presence by providing content like behind the scenes clips and other snippets through their web sites.

As people rely on other resources as their main source for entertainment, news and information, magazines have been forced to innovate in an attempt to attract more readers.

"A lot of magazines are going through a redesign phase...creating a fresh look, other than redesigning there is nothing they can do," Venerable said.

"They can redesign the look of the magazine to entice the reader including content, but re-designing requires a lot of money and not all magazines have the money to do that."

Nubia Murray, another Howard alumna, is a consistent freelance writer for *Ebony* magazine who feels redesign is a necessary, but costly, venture for magazine publishers.

"For any company, you come back where you can. They cut costs by hiring freelance writers, using old photography and changing the paper that they use," Murray admitted.

"*Ebony* in particular is still going through a redesign since the beginning of 2007, to bring it into the millennium. Certain magazines have a signature

style. By changing the cover model they are tapping into a whole new market."

The September edition of *Esquire* magazine will feature an electronic cover page. The cover will be made of electronic paper with words and images that digitally scroll across the screen. The magazine's upgrade will celebrate their 75th anniversary and will release 100,000 copies.

While it is true that for the first 6 months of 2008 most magazine sales experienced a 6 percent drop, *People* magazine and *InStyle* did not experience a decline in sales. The Audit Bureau of Circulations posted both magazines as having a 5.2 increase in sales.

Murray and Venerable both agreed that the industry is definitely in recession and many magazines can expect to flop, but certain magazines like *Ebony*, *People*, *Vogue*, *Vanity Fair* and *Sports Illustrated* may be able to maintain their consumer base.

"Certain magazines have a signature style and that is something that readers appreciate. A magazine is supposed to be a reflection of the society it represents and as long as it continues to do that it can expect to stay around," Murray said.

Venerable added, "Those magazines that were the first or the original of their kind will always be around. These magazines may undergo various drastic changes but as long as they continue to reach its faithful readers while still targeting new markets they can expect to maintain regardless of economic down slides."

Caught In Style

"Some people collect coins, some people collect purses, some people collect clothes...I collect shoes."



Who: Aric Adams, Freshman, Finance major

Caught: On The Yard

What are you wearing?

Baby Blue Polo, Ralph Lauren Polo
Louis Vuitton Sneakers, Louis Vuitton Detroit
True Religion Jeans, Nieman Marcus
Prada, Eyeglasses, Lenscrafters
Louis Vuitton Coin Pouch/Wallet, Louis Vuitton
Chevy Chase

So do you enjoy wearing your suit for business orientation?

They should be a little more considerate about having us wearing them when it's scorching hot outside. But it's cool, I like to dress up.

What celebrities do you look up too?

I like a lot of gaudy rappers like Gucci Mane and T.I. has nice style too. Basically any person that dresses in high end clothing, I look up to.

So you're really into sneakers?

It depends. When I'm at school, you know, I wear a lot of gym shoes and sneakers and stuff like that. But then if I'm on a date then I might throw on some loafers or Sperry's, you know something real classy.

How many pairs of shoes do you have, and how many did you bring to school?

I probably have around like 75, I think. I brought 36 pairs of shoes here and I just bought 2 more this week, so that's 38 I guess.

You don't find that to be slightly excessive?

I mean, I don't think that's excessive. I collect it. Some people collect coins, some people collect purses, some people collect clothes...I collect shoes.

"I just have a natural urge to just be into fashion."



Who: Melanie Clarke, Junior, Marketing major

Caught: Outside of Cramton Auditorium

What are you wearing?

Grey Vest, Vintage Store
Light Yellow Button-down Shirt, Target
Pink and White Striped Skirt, H&M
Brown Leather Boots, Thrift Store
Gold & Cream Oval Earrings, Beauty Supply Store
Gold Rose Ring, SoHo, NY
Long Gold Chain Necklace, Forever 21
Varied Bracelets, Forever 21 & H&M
Brown Leather Bag, SoHo, NY

What do you want everyone to know about you?

My basic interest is in the fashion industry. That's why my major is marketing because its real broad and can lead into anything.

Where have you worked?

This summer I interned at Complex Magazine in NY, in the fashion dept. I was a fashion closet intern dealing with merchandising and clothes and expenses and all sorts of kinds of things and I did photo shoots. Also I interned with a label called Star Power Media assisting the creative director.

Where did your style come from?

Actually it's so crazy: I look at my baby pictures with my mother. That's who it is. She just tries anything and she's just real risky and, like you know, just took on whatever: colors, cuts, whatever. So I think it's just something that's embedded in me. I just have a natural urge to just be into fashion.

Being on a college student budget, do you find it hard to get everything you want?

It is...but I make it work. I find the cheap stuff and make it look like it's something you would never even know.

"I've always liked to wear different kinds of clothes. It was just a way I could express myself artistically..."



Who: Keith Wall, Junior, Fashion Merchandising major

Caught: At the East Towers

What are you wearing?

Printed Button Down Shirt, Ralph Lauren Polo
White Belt
Black Dress Pants, Banana Public
Black Patent Shoes, Aldo

"Apparently fashion was something that I've always been interested in. In grade school I got a certificate from my teacher regarding my dress. So I've always liked to wear different kinds of clothes. It was just a way I could express myself artistically, like an outlet for myself. There was really not any influence that came into play until I started watching professional wrestling, that's actually the influence for a lot of my clothes."

How?

Well...a lot of what the ring performers wear is very bright and flamboyant, in my closet I've got nothing but bright, flamboyant colors.

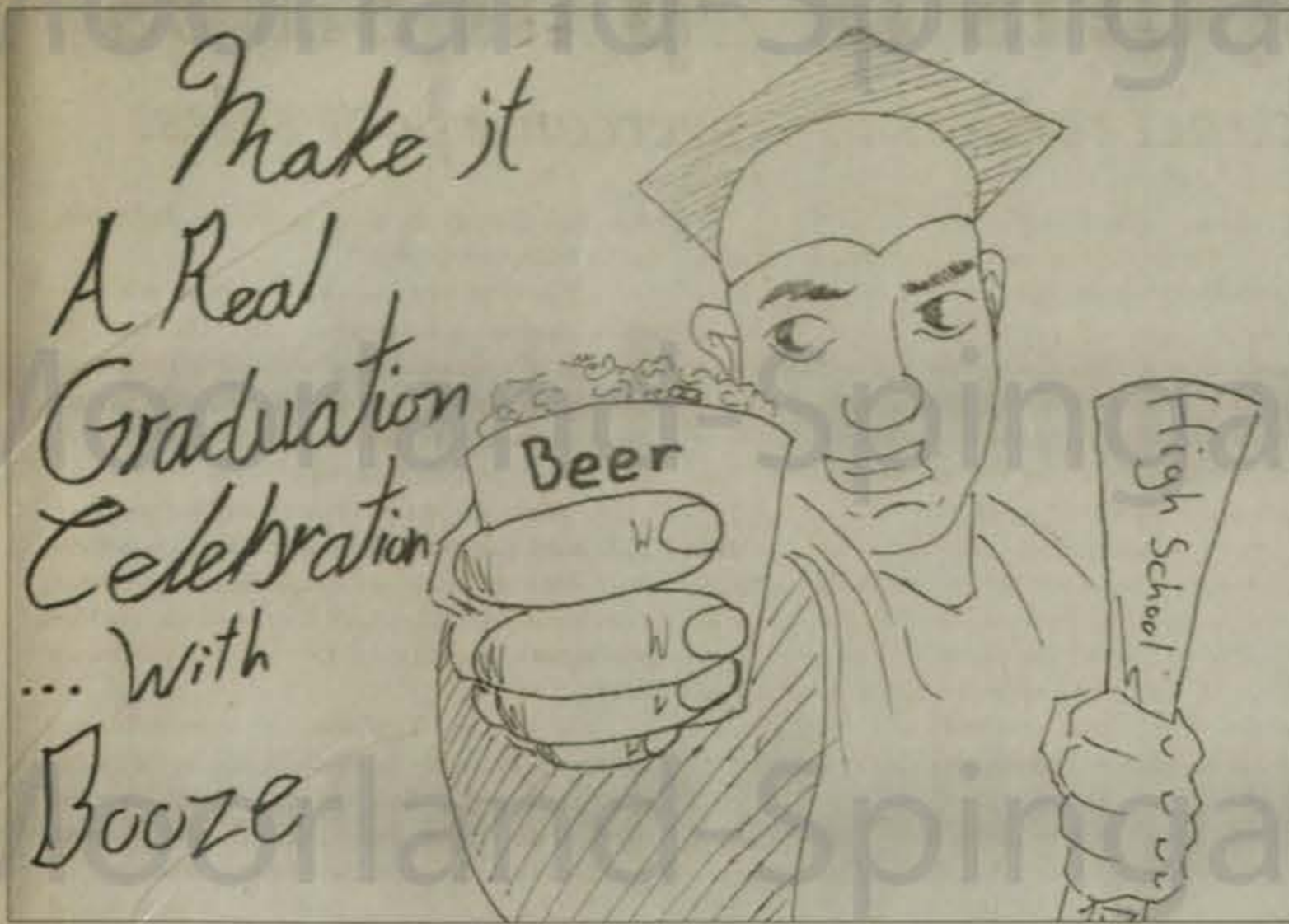
Who's your favorite wrestler?

I would have to say Ric Flair. If you were to actually watch professional wrestling the way I watch it and look at the clothes I wear or see some of my outfits you'd be able to correlate what he wore in the ring and what I have on.

So besides watching wrestling, what else do you do in your free time?

I'm actually very boring. I'm nothing like my clothing, I've been told. I like to watch movies. I'm like a huge movie person. I love cartoons, Anime, I like to listen to new music, go to restaurants, you know explore the city and go to museums.

- Photos and interviews compiled by Eboni Washington, Contributing Writer



Amethyst Initiative Proposes New National Drinking Age

In July 2008, presidents of universities and colleges across the nation launched the Amethyst Initiative, a project intended to lower the drinking age from 21 to 18.

The National Minimum Drinking Age Act, which was passed in 1984, increased the drinking age from 18 to 21.

However, college presidents are convinced that the legal drinking age is not working and that it promotes binge drinking, especially amongst under-age college students.

They feel that if adults, who are under age 21 are able to vote, smoke, sign contracts and go to war, then they should also be free to choose whether or not they would like to legally consume alcohol.

Colleges involved in the initiative include Clark University, Spelman College and the University of Maryland-College Park.

Lowering the drinking age is a controversial topic because many of us have lost people to alcoholism, car accidents and careless mistakes involving alcohol

consumption.

Many people who are killed in accidents regarding drunk driving are not at fault and happen to be at the wrong place at the wrong time.

Those who intend to drink will drink and those who choose to abstain will abstain.

However, there are many

gence of alcohol.

Also, in European countries such as France, Germany and Greece, the legal drinking age ranges from ages 14 to 18.

Despite these young ages, however, these countries do not experience as many highway and binge drinking accidents as the United States.

While the governmental issues surrounding the Amethyst Initiative will end up being the deciding factor, it is necessary to understand that no one can target the maturity levels of millions of people.

It would be impossible to determine an age at which all people become mature.

Maturity is a relative and personal change that occurs at different stages in everyone's life.

It is up to you as an individual to make your own decisions. No law nor initiative can save a life nor change the past.

If you choose to drink, then drink responsibly, regardless of whether or not this proposed law is passed.

Our View:

Maturity is relative and no one will be able to know if the initiative is effective until the law is passed.

psychological dynamics involved when people choose to drink underage.

Primarily, the thrill of being able to drink before you are legally allowed to attracts most young people to defy this law.

Those college presidents in favor of lowering the minimum drinking age feel that mischief associated with underage drinking is a leading cause in the overindul-

Daily Sudoku

Directions:

Each row, each column and each 3x3 box must contain each and every digit 1-9 exactly once.

								3
	2	4		6				
8		7			1		5	
				7	2	3		9
	7						1	
9		1	3	4				
	3		4			2		8
				9		6	4	
5								

Do you want to write for The Hilltop?

Come to our next budget meeting
Sunday @ 6 P.M. in the West Towers

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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The Hilltop encourages its readers to share their opinions with the newspaper through letters to the editor or perspectives. All letters should include a complete address and telephone number and should be sent electronically on our Web site at www.thehilltoponline.com.

Any inquiries for advertisements or Hilltopics should be directed to The Hilltop Business Office.

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Now in its 84th year, The Hilltop is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of 7,000, The Hilltop is the largest black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial & Perspectives page are the views of the The Hilltop Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent Howard University or its administration.

The Hilltop reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammatical errors and any inappropriate, libelous or defamatory content. All letters must be submitted a week prior to publication.

FILL THIS SPACE
WITH
YOUR PERSPECTIVE!

HAVE AN OPINION THAT YOU WOULD LIKE
TO SHARE?

SUBMIT YOUR PERSPECTIVE TO:
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CLASSIFIEDS

The Ladies of Alpha Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Present: The 26th Annual Walk-A-Thon Informational Monday, September 8, 2008 Founders Browsing Room 7:00pm and 8:30 pm

The Lovely Ladies of Alpha Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Welcomes The Class of 2012!

Sister to Sister Wednesday September 3, 2008 Tubman Quadrangle, Truth Hall Lounge

From Us to You Thursday, September 4, 2008 Drew Hall Lounge

Time: 7:08 pm

Casual Attire

TOP REASONS TO JOIN HEADS UP
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The Undergraduate Trustee's Visionary Leadership Council in co-sponsorship with the Brothers of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. Alpha Chapter present...

Men of Excellence: How to Lead and Succeed featuring President Ribeau

Thursday, September 4, 2008 in the Blackburn Ballroom 6:30pm-8:00pm

Please come and listen to Dr. Ribeau's first speech to Howard University students!!

The Ladies of Alpha Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated Present...

PolitiCall: "Preparing a Movement: One Vote at a Time"

September 9, 2008 8pm Founder's Library Browsing Room

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The Ladies of Alpha Chapter,

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Present...

"Voter Registration Week: One Vote, One Movement"

September 8-11, 2008 11:00am-3:00pm

Blackburn